

April 4, 2005

The Honorable Dennis Hastert  
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC

Dear Speaker Hastert,

On behalf of the U.S. electrical equipment industry, I strongly urge you to support approval as early as possible of the Free Trade Agreement with Central America and the Dominican Republic.

This Agreement is essentially a one-way, favorable deal for the United States. Since these six countries already enjoy ready U.S. market access for items in our Association's product scope, it levels the playing field for manufacturers in our sector by featuring foreign tariff elimination, much of it immediate. In fact, based on current annual trade levels, over \$1 billion worth of tariffs applied on U.S. exports in our sector will be eliminated when the Agreement takes effect. This Agreement also promises to reduce non-tariff barriers and benefit joint efforts to eliminate counterfeit products.

NEMA members already enjoy surprising levels of commerce with these nations despite their frequently high duties, and our exports stand to expand even further under the Agreement:

- The Dominican Republic is already the U.S. electrical equipment industry's number three export market and trading partner in Latin America and the Caribbean after Mexico and Brazil.
- The five participating Central American nations (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua) combined already constitute a bigger export market and trading partner for the U.S. electrical equipment industry than Brazil.

NEMA is the largest trade association representing the interests of U.S. electrical equipment manufacturers, whose worldwide annual sales exceed \$130 billion. Our 400 member companies manufacture products used in the generation, transmission, distribution, control, and use of electricity. These products are used in utility, industrial, commercial, institutional and residential installations. The Association's Medical Products Division represents manufacturers of medical diagnostic imaging equipment including MRI, CT, x-ray, ultrasound and nuclear products.

In short, we believe this Agreement should be allowed to take effect as soon as possible and prompt approval of implementing legislation by the House is essential. Thank you for your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Malcolm O'Hagan, President